

Re: GOC Convoy Update - Jan 26th

From: "Astravas, Zita" <zita.astravas@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>
To: "Williams, Caroline" <caroline.williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>
Cc: "Blair, Bill" [Personal Info.], "Cullinan, Annie" <annie.cullinan@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>
Date: Thu, 27 Jan 2022 18:28:18 +0000

Deputy Clerk of the House has called the Whips of all parties asking them to agree to cancel committee meeting tomorrow given the protests. The reason is that the committee administrative staff need to be in-person even if all MPs are virtual. Our Whip's office is working with others on this

More to follow

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 26, 2022, at 6:49 PM, Williams, Caroline <Caroline.Williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca> wrote:

Good evening again sir,

Summary of this evening's call below. We have also received an update from CBSA, which I have included below the call summary.

Key Points

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- * The Sergeant-at-Arms reached out to NCR MPs today to officially alert them to the convoy's approach. Further engagement with all MPs is expected tomorrow.
- * Getting you a more in-depth briefing was raised again. PCO agreed to look into getting one set up for tomorrow.

Summary of Call
Mike MacDonald

- * There are 4 main lanes of work going on right now: Communications, Ministerial Security, preparing for a peaceful event, and national security considerations
- * NatSec lane:
 - * The threat assessment from a law enforcement perspective has not changed. LEOs continue to have good interactions with the convoy on the road, and they are abiding by road safety instructions when given.

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- * Anti-government chatter from a small number of individuals has been noted in online forums, but few signs that it's mobilizing beyond rhetoric.
- * And there is awareness of some "undesirables" looking to latch onto the convoys, a few

individuals have been kicked out.

- * Peaceful event lane:

- * Sgt-at-Arms, PPS, OPS, RCMP are all seeing a peaceful event at the moment, no indications otherwise but they are monitoring.

- * Are aware of comments from prominent US individuals. Have checked with CBSA, nothing to flag on their end yet, but officials have committed to digging into it more.

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- * PSPC has shut down construction along Wellington for Saturday and Sunday.

- * Communications lane:

- * An alert notice went out to all MPs in the NCR today from the Sgt at Arms, a similar message is going out to all MPs tomorrow.

- * Roles and leads are very clear: PPS and Sgt of Arms leads on parliamentary precinct, OPS leads in Ottawa proper. The RCMP have a responsibility for MP safety as well.

- * Ministerial Security lane:

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- * Our office and PMO said we would look into what info we could provide on this

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- * NCR partners are planning for a range of risks. Counter demonstrations are possible, as is the blocking of intersections – protestors say they will not do the latter, but it's a large number of vehicles coming in.

- * Police liaison officers are working within the structures and are providing helpful information. OPP is gathering intelligence along the road as soon as convoys enter Ontario, and SQ are doing the same in Quebec.

PMO: There has been rhetoric on the Governor General, what support is being offered to her?

Mike MacDonald: s.38

s.38

Zita: Minister Blair wants an update tomorrow, looking for more granularity on the situation. Looking for the same briefings/information that have been offered other Ministers.

PCO: RCMP would be best positioned to give a more detailed briefing. Will look into pulling together the right people for something tomorrow.

CBSA UPDATE

Overall Assessment

- Overall, the impact is low, however, many regions are seeing truck drivers arriving without proof of vaccination or the use of ArriveCAN.

- Impacts are reflective of both Canadian based and US based truck drivers with US measures now fully in place.
- BSOs had to complete or review ContactTrace 1,077 times due to lack of ArriveCAN submissions.
- * Border wait times are being managed by reallocating staff and by OT as required.
- * Several regions are encountering a few unvaccinated foreign nationals and therefore are directing them back.
- * Some truck drivers have been ordered to quarantine and provided test kits.
- * Some regions are reporting minor delays due to truck drivers arriving without ArriveCAN
- * SOR - A "Slow Roll" protest continued on January 25, 2022. However, impacts to traffic flow were minimal. The region continues to monitor and report on resistance to the measures implemented for commercial drivers.
- * Frequent staff briefings occurring to ensure all Officers are aware of latest information and procedures.

The top stories in this morning's clippings continues to be the trucker vaccination requirement:

- * The top story in this morning's clippings across most major outlets (CBC News iPolitics Agence QMI Globe and Mail CTV News Winnipeg; Winnipeg Sun; CBC Manitoba Alaska Highway News) continues to be the trucker vaccination requirement, with reporting that this weekend's truck vaccination protest convoy is expected to arrive at Parliament Hill over the weekend, but that the organizer won't tolerate extremists or violence, calling on people to report any aggressive or violent behaviour
- * CTV News<<https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/conservative-mps-cheer-on-trucker-convoy-voice-opposition-to-vaccine-mandates-1.5754495>> reported that conservative MPs are cheering on the convoy and voicing opposition to vaccine mandates
- * The Toronto Sun<<https://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ps-sp/2022/01/25/242511439>> argues in an editorial that the PM is using the trucker protests as a political weapon
- * Media calls: There remains two open media calls asking about the number of FN truck drivers turned away since January 15: Globe & Mail / Kristy Kirkup + Marieke Walsh; and CTV News / Glen McGregor. One additional call was received and closed one call yesterday related to possible delays for cross border truckers (Today's Trucking / John G Smith). The answer uses previously approved/used response and can be found in the attached wrap, fourth call in the log.

From: Williams, Caroline
 Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 7:47 PM
 To: 'Blair, Bill' -Personal Info.
 Cc: Astravas, Zita <Zita.Astravas@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>
 Subject: GOC Convoy Update - Jan 26th

Good evening Minister,

GOC update on the Convoy is below. A read-out on today's 6:30PM call with PCO will follow shortly.

New information in bold

The following relates to a planned peaceful demonstration in Ottawa on 28-29 Jan. The Government Operations Centre (GOC) is monitoring the potential to affect Critical Infrastructure (CI) including Federal assets.

Overview:

- * Effective 15 Jan, COVID-19 vaccination became mandatory for all truckers entering Canada from the United States to avoid a two-week quarantine and a negative COVID-19 test before arrival.

- * Similarly, beginning on 22 Jan, U.S. DHS began requiring non-U.S. individuals seeking to enter the United States via land ports of entry and ferry terminals at the U.S.- Mexico and U.S.- Canada borders to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and provide related proof of vaccination, as COVID-19 cases continue to rise nationwide. These new restrictions will apply to non-U.S. individuals who are traveling for both essential and non-essential reasons. They will not apply to U.S. citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents, or U.S. nationals.”

Link<<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/01/20/dhs-require-non-us-individual-travelers-entering-united-states-land-ports-entry-and>>

Key Points:

- * A number of Canadian truckers have planned a massive convoy with hopes of ending the mandatory vaccine mandate for truckers.

- * Trucking convoys from across the country are planning to gather in Ottawa on 28-29 Jan to demonstrate against this requirement.

- * Members of the national group, Freedom Convoy 2022 are planning to conduct “slow roll” convoys at provincial and Canada/U.S. border crossing over the next two weekends. A spokesperson for the group indicates that such convoys will continue so long as government imposed COVID-19 mandates and restrictions continue.

Link<<https://www.infomedia.gc.ca/tc/2022/01/22/242457123>>

- * The NB chapter of the group is planning one such convoy at the Woodstock, NB / Houlton, ME border beginning at approximately 11:00 EST on 29 Jan and will continue for the majority of the day, with convoys on both sides of the border.

- * Additional convoys are planned at the NB/NS and several NB/QC borders on 29 Jan

- * Convoy in Sarnia ON, commenced 23 Jan consisting of mostly passenger vehicles on the 402 West leading up to the Blue Water Bridge crossing.

- * Convoy in Windsor ON, on 23 Jan, to begin driving a circuit leading up to the Ambassador Bridge crossing. This will continue until 27 Jan when the convoy will depart for Ottawa.

- * Eastern convoys bound for Ottawa will depart: St. Johns NL, P.E.I, Enfield NS on 27 Jan.

- * Southern convoys bound for Ottawa will depart: Windsor and Sarnia on 27 Jan.

- * The western convoy originating from BC passed through Dryden destined for Thunder Bay for the night. Link<<https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/thunder-bay-police-caution-motorists-about-heavy-traffic-from-the-truckers-convoy-4995561>>

- * According to Regina Police Service, an estimated 1,200 semi-trucks were seen driving through. Link<<https://globalnews.ca/news/8536817/truckers-protest-covid-vaccine-mandate-winnipeg-tuesday/>>

- * The three convoys plan to meet in Ottawa on 29 Jan.

- * Contacts for routes and timelines can be found on the organizations website:

Link<https://canada-unity.com/bearhug/?fbclid=IwAR3IXhjEdLMZ5BjP-inIaSwJZKAslthpLys62rocAoSVksIL8EYb7L_GjQg>

- * Canadian Truck Alliance (CTA) released a statement saying it does not support any protests on public roadways, highways, and bridges. Link<<https://cantruck.ca/canadian-trucking-alliance->

statement-to-those-engaged-in-road-border-protests/#:~:text=The%20Canadian%20Trucking%20Alliance%20(CTA,roadways%2C%20highways%2C%20and%20bridges.&text=%E2%80%9CThe%20Government%20of%20Canada%20and,requirement%20to%20cross%20the%20border.>

- * The Atlantic Canadian Trucking Association is adding its voice to calls, denouncing the trucking convoy headed for Ottawa.

- * As reported on Open Sources, CTA states that as many as 32,000 or 20% of CAN/US cross border truck drivers may be impacted by the vaccine mandate.

Link<<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/truckers-fighting-government-vaccine-mandate-march-canadian-capital-2022-01-24/>>

- * 25 Jan: 26,000 of the 160,000 drivers (Canadians and Americans) who make regular Canada-United-States trips will likely be sidelined as a result of the vaccine mandate in both countries.

- * News of the Freedom Convoy 2022 has hit international media as seen on Reuters<<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/truckers-fighting-government-vaccine-mandate-march-canadian-capital-2022-01-24/>>

- * PM Justin Trudeau announced that close to 90% of Canadian Truckers are already vaccinated and will therefore not be impacted by the new restrictions.

Link<<https://globalnews.ca/news/8533779/truckers-convoy-canada-vaccine-mandate/>>

- * Some truckers oppose the mandates, commenting on the restriction on their freedom as well as the predicted effects on the supply chain. Link<<https://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ps-sp/en/2022/1/25/242500974>>

- * Minister Alghabra has said there has been no measurable reduction in the number of trucks crossing the border each day.

- * Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole, has commented on options for rapid tests at the border for unvaccinated drivers to avoid disrupting the flow of goods at a time of high inflation.

Link<<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/truckers-vaccine-vandetta-conservative-mps-1.6325761>>

- * AB PM Jason Kenney signaled he was working with U.S. governors on a letter to pressure President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to reverse the order.

Link<<https://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ps-sp/en/2022/1/25/242499233>>

- * In AB, those who cannot go to Ottawa are being encouraged to block the Coutts border, most likely on 28-29 Jan, and not move until the demands in Ottawa are met. (Source: comments on the Freedom Convoy 2020 Facebook page.)

- * According to Open Sources, Freedom Convoy 2022, has raised over \$5.3 million in fundraising in support of their cause. Link<<https://www.gofundme.com/f/taking-back-our-freedom-convoy-2022>>

- * However, GoFundMe has temporarily frozen the funds, stating that they require the fundraisers ‘‘be transparent about the flow of funds and have a clear plan for how those funds will be spent.’’ Link<<https://ca.finance.yahoo.com/news/trucker-convoy-4-million-fundraising-142322714.html>>

- * The group stated that the money raised is to help truckers pay for fuel, lodging and food, and will be distributed ‘‘following a strict procedure,’’. They also stated that ‘‘Drivers must register, check in with their respective road captains and submit receipts to be reimbursed,’’ and that ‘‘all remaining funds will be donated to a Veterans Association in Canada. There is a lawyer and accountant overseeing this.’’ Link<<https://www.thestar.com/local-perth/news/2022/01/25/freedom-convoy-2022-hitting-ottawa-saturday.html>>

- * As part of the protest, Canada Unity plans to present a request (MOU) to the Governor General and Senate for the removal of various COVID19 related Public Health Order restrictions.

- * Some supporters suggested they would not leave Ottawa until vaccine mandates for public servants, Canadian travelers and cross-border truckers are lifted.

- * The Parliamentary Protective Service, who are responsible for security on Parliament Hill, told

Global News they are aware of the protest plans and are coordinating with other security agencies.

- * OPP has said that it is working with those involved to minimize the impact to the public and ensure public safety. OPP is also advising the public that “protest activities may interrupt the normal flow of traffic” Link<<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/as-trucking-convoy-approaches-ottawa-police-warn-of-traffic-slowdowns>>

- * Ottawa police now preparing for multiple groups coming to Ottawa with planning underway for a range of risks including counter-demonstrations, blocking of intersections, interfering with critical infrastructure, and unlawful activity. Ottawa police have also reported a direct threat from a counter-protest source. Link<<https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/police-urge-public-to-avoid-downtown-ottawa-during-trucker-convoy-protest-1.5755382>>

- * Freedom Convoy 2022 organizer says the group won’t tolerate extremists and instructed participants "If you see participants along the way that are misbehaving, acting aggressively in any way or inciting any type of violence or hatred, please take down the truck number and their license plate number so that we can forward that to the police," in response to fringe groups/people calling for destructive action. Link<<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/organizer-extremists-convoy-no-violence-1.6327650>>

- * A joint communication strategy is being developed by the City of Ottawa to ensure the public is informed of traffic and transit plans throughout the demonstration.

Assessment: (derived from information available on open sources) for the 28-29 Jan Demonstration in Ottawa:

- * Trucking convoys driving slowly on highways could cause travel delays for commercial or personal vehicles on major highways.

- * The trucking convoys gathering in Ottawa could severely impact the travel of commercial and personal vehicles within the City.

- * Ottawa Police, the OPP and the RCMP as well as the City of Ottawa, are aware of and are coordinating a response to the progress of the various convoys.

- * Since most government employees are working remotely, the disruption to government activities is expected to be minor.

- * s.38 is indicating that this will be a significant and extremely fluid event that could go on for a prolonged period.

Organizers of the protest have expressed the intent for a peaceful event, which is consistent with what has been seen in other areas where the convoy has stopped so far.

<26-01-2022 Trade and Transport Cohort for Jan 25 (final).docx>